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Biden Names New State Solicitor

Ian McConnel to lead the Department of Justice Civil Division

Wilmington – Attorney General Beau Biden announced today that he has appointed Ian McConnel, former head of the Delaware Department of Justice Fraud and Consumer Protection Division, to the position of State Solicitor. As the head of the Department's Civil Division, the State Solicitor oversees several key functions of the office, including evaluating Freedom of Information Act requests, providing legal representation to hundreds of State boards and commissions, and reviewing and drafting complex transactional agreements.

"Since Ian joined the Department of Justice, he has proven to be a vital asset to my office and the Delawareans we serve," said Biden. "He has the experience and expertise to lead the far-reaching, important efforts of the Civil Division, and I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new post."

McConnel became head of the Fraud and Consumer Protection Division in 2011. Under his leadership, the Division led Delaware's response to the foreclosure crisis, including sitting on the Executive Committee of the 50-state investigation of mortgage servicing violations, establishing Delaware's mandatory foreclosure mediation program, and leading the Attorney General's investigation of the national private electronic mortgage registry known as MERS. Prior to heading the Division, McConnel directed the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit, where he initiated and led a nationwide consumer fraud investigation into the marketing practices of a multi-national pharmaceutical company. He also established and led DOJ's Mortgage Fraud Task Force, which helped more than 1,000 Delaware families facing foreclosure, and spearheaded successful legislative efforts to regulate debt management companies and strengthen Delaware's consumer protection laws.

Before joining the DOJ in 2008, McConnel practiced law at the Wilmington firm of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell. He has also worked as an investment adviser and licensed stock broker for a private mutual fund company, and served as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps. McConnel has served on the Delaware State Bar Ethics Committee and Nominating Committee for the Executive Committee.

McConnel's tenure as State Solicitor began July 1. He follows longtime DOJ attorney Larry Lewis, who has led the Civil Division for the past six years. Lewis continues his service to the Department as representative for the Public Service Commission.

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